



NORTH WEST Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

30th March, 1977.

To: Members of the Mersey and Weaver
Fisheries Advisory Committee
(Messrs. P. W. Jennings (Chairman);
J. S. Bailey; F. Burgess; F. Egerton;
A. Jones; T. N. McLoughlin; R. Newton;
A. Ross; Dr. J. W. Jones; and the
Chairman of the Authority (P. J. Liddell);
and the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee (J. R. S. Watson)
(ex officio)).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the MERSEY AND WEAVER FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held at 2.30 p.m. on THURSDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1977, in COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 1, DAWSON HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. SHAW,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Angling Leases on Authority waters.
4. Fisheries Income and Expenditure.
5. Report by Area Fisheries Officer on Fisheries Activities.
6. Any Other Business.

NOTE: Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1.00 p.m. The menu for the day is enclosed, and members attending for lunch are asked to indicate their choice of main course to the officer on duty near the Members' Retiring Room.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE7TH APRIL 1977ANGLING LEASES ON AUTHORITY WATERS

1. Since the formation of the Authority it has been the practice to grant extensions of existing leases for angling on waters in the ownership of the Authority for periods of twelve months only, except for special cases where the question of grant aid might be involved. Such a policy has been followed so that some consideration could be given to the conflicting recreational pursuits involving the use of water.
2. The Authority has now adopted a policy for reconciling responsibilities for water supply and recreation. Proper and consistent application of the policy could mean that angling in some small reservoirs should cease and be permitted to resume when the necessary capital works have been carried out or improved operational practices have been introduced.
3. Work is now in progress on the examination of reservoirs and treatment plants to assess in detail their compliance with the recommended policy. Those cases where it needs to be settled whether angling may continue or not are to be in the first cases to be reported to the Water Management Committee. These will then be considered by the Recreation Sub-Committee as guidelines within which to form a policy for recreation activities.
4. It is too early to say yet whether longer leases than five years at a time are likely to be practicable within the policy as a general rule, but it is recognised that the existing year by year extension does not provide sufficient security of tenure for the proper use of the waters by an association. It is hoped that consideration of leases expiring in the Autumn of this year may be those for which the policy may be first applied.

MERSEY AND WEAVER

FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7th APRIL 1977

FISHERIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

1. At the last meeting of the Regional Committee details were given of sales of licences for the 1976 season, and of estimated income and expenditure up to 31st March, 1977. This resulted in a request for the Local Advisory Committees to be circulated with details of the actual sales of licences together with details of the expenditure charged to Fisheries. These details are attached hereto in the form of Appendices, I and II.
2. Appendix I lists details of the actual sales of fishing licences for 1976, whilst Appendix II shows the actual expenditure for 1975-76, the original estimate for 1976-77, the probable out-turn for 1976-77 and the estimated cost of the Fisheries Service for 1977-78. The expenditure on Appendix II is analysed over objective headings in an attempt to indicate how much of the total budget is incurred on Enforcement and Protection, Fish Culture and Conservation, etc.
3. Following the meeting of the Regional Committee, the Corporate Management Team reviewed the financial situation on the Fisheries Account and considered it necessary to report to the Policy and Resources Committee as a matter of policy.
4. The Policy and Resources Committee discussed the matter on 28th February, 1977 (Minute No. 55) and considered it necessary to take action to prevent any further deterioration in the financial situation on the Fisheries Account whilst the overall problems were examined in detail.
5. Accordingly that Committee have recommended as follows:
 - (1) That the structure and scales of rod and line licences and the nature and amount of expenditure charged to the Fisheries Account be referred to a working party of officers for further report in due course.
 - (2) That in the meantime, as interim measures:
 - (i) an application be made for an approximate 30% increase on the present scale of rod and line licences to be effective from 1st January, 1978 to cover inflation since the last application;
 - (ii) the Policy and Resources Committee be authorised to approve the details of such increases to enable the necessary application to be made to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
 - (iii) the provision in the estimates for 1977-78 to take

account of the additional cost arising from
the new conditions of service of the bailiffs
be reduced by £16,000.

6. These recommendations were approved by the Authority on 21st March, 1977.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

FISHING LICENCES 1976 SEASON ROD AND LINE

| TYPE OF LICENCE | PRICE | ACTUAL | |
|--|-------|--------|------------|
| | | SALES | VALUE |
| | £ | | £ |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout Season | 12.00 | 1,897 | 22,764.00 |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season to 31st May | 6.00 | 63 | 378.00 |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season from 1st June | 7.00 | 2,301 | 16,107.00 |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout Reduced Duty Season | 5.00 | 604 | 3,020.00 |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season I - Junior | 2.50 | 15 | 37.50 |
| Salmon & Mig.Trout P/Season II - Junior | 3.00 | 409 | 1,227.00 |
| Salmon - 7 day | 2.00 | 1,876 | 3,752.00 |
| | | 7,165 | 47,285.50 |
| Non Mig.Trout - Season | 2.00 | 19,802 | 39,604.00 |
| Non Mig.Trout - Reduced Duty Season | 1.00 | 3,684 | 3,684.00 |
| Non Mig.Trout - 7 day | 0.50 | 11,673 | 5,836.50 |
| | | 35,159 | 49,124.50 |
| Freshwater Fish and Eels Season | 1.00 | 18,096 | 18,096.00 |
| Freshwater Fish and Eels Junior - Season | 0.50 | 4,018 | 2,009.00 |
| Freshwater Fish & Eels 7 day | 0.25 | 3,456 | 864.00 |
| <u>Former Mersey & Weaver</u> | | | |
| Freshwater Fish and Eels Season | 0.50 | 7,880 | 3,940.00 |
| Freshwater Fish and Eels Junior - Season | 0.25 | 2,014 | 503.50 |
| | | 35,464 | 25,412.50 |
| TOTAL: | | 77,788 | 121,822.50 |

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

FISHERIES - ESTIMATES 1977-78

| ACTUAL 1975-76 | HEAD | ESTIMATE 1976-77 | PROBABLE OUTTURN 1976-77 | ESTIMATE 1977-78 |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| £'000 | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| | EXPENDITURE | | | |
| 175 | 1. ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTION | 207 | 270 | 287 |
| 48 | 2. FISH CULTURE AND CONSERVATION | 88 | 76 | 79 |
| 40 | 3. TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTROL | 56 | 85 | 109 |
| 102 | 4. POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINI- STRATION | 142 | 142 | 140 |
| - | 5. INFLATION - UPDATE PROVISION | 53 | 8 | 43 |
| 365 | 6. TOTAL WORKING EXPENSES | 546 | 581 | 658 |
| 4 | 7. DEPRECIATION | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8. INTEREST | 17 | 7 | 11 |
| | 9. CENTRAL ALLOCATIONS | | | |
| 8 | (a) Regional Common Services | 12 | 15 | 23 |
| 3 | (b) Contributions NWC & WRC | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | (c) Head Office Costs | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 389 | 10. TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 588 | 614 | 710 |
| | <u>Deduct</u> | | | |
| (81) | 11. SUNDRY INCOME | (240) | (158) | (158) |
| 307 | 12. NET EXPENDITURE (transferred to Sewerage and Environmental Services Summary Page 8) | 348 | 456 | 552 |

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYMERSEY AND WEAVERFISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEEREPORT BY AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES7th APRIL, 19771. General Fisheries Management

- (i) Five requests for advice on fisheries matters requiring site visits were received in the review period.
- (ii) Investigations
The Fisheries Department has continued its investigations into the state of the fishery in the River Weaver. This work is being carried out in conjunction with Liverpool University.

2. Stocking

Applications for consent to introduce the following fish into waters in the area have been approved:

| | | |
|-------|----|-----|
| Tench | -- | 450 |
| Roach | - | 150 |
| Carp | - | 50 |

3. Fish Mortalities

There was a suspected case of Spring Viraemia in specimen Carp introduced into a lodge at Bury.

The Veterinary Investigation Centre at Penrith confirmed the presence of *Aeromonas hydrophila* and suggested the application of antibiotic by injection. Members of the Biology staff went out on three separate occasions and administered intraperitoneal injections. Some of the fish responded to the treatment but the majority of the fish were at an advanced stage of the disease and therefore died.

Other than the above case, there were no other significant mortalities to report.

4. Fishing: General Comments on Sport

Notable fish caught in the review period:-

| | | | |
|----|----|------------|--------------------------|
| 1b | oz | | |
| 2 | 1 | Bream | - Hartford, River Weaver |
| 4 | 2 | 6 Roach | - Pennington Flash |
| 20 | 0 | (27 Roach | - Pennington Flash |
| | | (3 Perch | |

5. Staffing

The following staff took up their posts on 1st February, 1977:-

Principal Fisheries Assistant based at Warrington
Fisheries Assistant based at Warrington
Two Inspectors based at Tintwistle
One Inspector based at Northwich
Two Bailiffs -- One based at Blackburn, one based at Crewe

At the beginning of April two more Bailiffs will have commenced their duties with the Authority, one based in Bolton, one based at Warrington.

6. Bailiffing

The Inspectors and Bailiffs have already been very active patrolling in the area and a considerable number of 'Fishing Without Licence' offences have been reported. The Inspectors have recently reported that since patrolling started the proportion of anglers holding licences has increased and it would appear that their activities are already having a favourable effect on licence sales for the area.

7. Netting Operations

The Fisheries Staff have carried out a training, netting operation to transfer fish. 1,000 fish were moved from a pond at Huyton; 600 Rudd and Roach to ponds at Prescot and 400 excellent Perch to the Weaver at Hankelow.

It is envisaged that some form of restocking programme, for waters which have suffered from pollution incidents in the past, will be possible after April when improved collection and transport facilities should be available.

8. Stock Pools

The stock pool at Bostock Hall is now available and work is in hand to provide proper access to the lake and facilitate netting operations. The pool is highly productive and should yield excellent fish.

9. Worthington Reservoirs

Worthington Reservoirs have been stocked with 6,000 Roach; 2,000 Carp; 1,000 Bream and 1,000 Tench and a number of small Carp have been retained in the stock ponds at Worthington Treatment Plant for rearing experimentally.